

1. Regarding Paragraph 1, Defendant lacks sufficient information or knowledge to admit or to deny Plaintiff's residence; therefore, it is denied.
2. Regarding Paragraph 2, Defendant admits that Hotel ZaZa Houston is located at 5701 Main Street, Harris County, Texas and is managed by Z Resorts Management, LLC but denies the remainder of the statements contained in the paragraph.
3. Regarding Paragraph 3, it is admitted.
4. Regarding Paragraph 4, Defendant admits that Sovereign Services of Houston operates in Houston, Texas but denies the remainder of the statements about Sovereign.

5. Regarding Paragraph 5, Defendant admits that S.A. Duvall is an off-duty HPD officer but denies that he wrongfully entered the guest room at Hotel ZaZa. As to the remainder of Paragraph 5, Defendant lacks sufficient information or knowledge to admit or to deny the remainder of the statements regarding S.A. Duvall; therefore, it is denied.
6. Regarding Paragraph 6, Defendant admits that Defendant Mays is employed at Hotel ZaZa but denies the remainder of the statements contained in the paragraph.
7. Regarding Paragraph 7, Defendant admits that S.A. Duvall was working as an off-duty police officer at Hotel ZaZa at the time of the incident. Defendant denies the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 7.
8. Regarding Paragraph 8, Defendant admits that S.A. Duvall was an off-duty HPD policeman working at Hotel ZaZa at the time of the incident but denies the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 8.
9. Regarding Paragraph 9, Defendant denies the allegations.
10. Regarding Paragraph 10, Defendant denies the allegations.
11. Regarding Paragraph 11, Defendant denies the allegations.
12. Regarding Paragraph 12, Defendant denies the allegations.
13. Regarding Paragraph 13, Defendant denies the allegations.
14. Regarding Paragraph 14, Defendant lacks sufficient information or knowledge to admit or to deny the allegations; therefore, they are denied.
15. Regarding Paragraph 15, Defendant lacks sufficient information or knowledge to admit or to deny the allegations; therefore, they are denied.
16. Regarding Paragraph 16, Defendant denies the allegations.
17. Regarding Paragraph 17, Defendant denies the allegations.

18. Regarding Paragraph 18, Defendant denies the allegations.
19. Regarding Paragraph 19, Defendant denies the allegations.
20. Regarding Paragraph 20, Defendant denies the allegations.
21. Regarding Paragraph 21, Defendant denies the allegations.
22. Regarding Paragraph 22, Defendant denies the allegations.
23. Regarding Paragraph 23, Defendant lacks sufficient information or knowledge to admit or to deny the allegations of the injuries allegedly sustained by Plaintiff; therefore, they are denied. Defendant denies the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 23.
24. Regarding Paragraph 24, Defendant admits that the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division has jurisdiction.
25. Regarding Paragraph 25, Defendant admits that the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas has jurisdiction, and that the venue is proper in the Houston Division.
26. Regarding Paragraph 26, Defendant admits that Plaintiff was at Hotel ZaZa Houston on January 1, 2016 but lacks sufficient information or knowledge to admit or to deny the remaining statements; therefore, the remaining statements in Paragraph 26 are denied.
27. Regarding Paragraph 27, Defendant admits that Hotel ZaZa is operated and managed by Z Resorts Management, LLC, and that Z Resorts Management, LLC is responsible for the hiring, training, supervision, and management of its security employees. As to the remainder of the statements contained in the paragraph, they are denied.
28. Regarding Paragraph 28, Defendant denies the allegations.
29. Regarding Paragraph 29, Defendant admits that Defendant Duvall was an off-duty HPD officer working at Hotel ZaZa but denies that he was a Hotel security guard. Defendant denies the remaining statements in Paragraph 29.

30. Regarding Paragraph 30, Defendant admits that Defendant is not to intentionally harm any invitees; otherwise, Defendant denies the remainder of the statements.
31. Regarding Paragraph 31, Defendant denies the allegations.
32. Regarding Paragraph 32, Defendant denies the allegations.
33. Regarding Paragraph 33, Defendant admits that it controlled the premises where the incident occurred; and that it hired, managed and supervised its security employees. Defendant denies that it owned the premises.
34. Regarding Paragraph 34, Defendant denies the allegations.
35. Regarding Paragraph 35, Defendant denies the allegations.
36. Regarding Paragraph 36, Defendant denies the allegations.
37. Regarding Paragraph 37, Defendant denies the allegations.
38. Regarding Paragraph 38, Defendant denies the allegations.
39. Regarding Paragraph 39, Defendant denies the allegations.
40. Regarding Paragraph 40, Defendant denies the allegations.
41. Regarding Paragraph 41, Defendant only admits that Plaintiff alleges damages to include prejudgment interest, court costs and post-judgment interest; otherwise, Defendant denies that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief from Defendant.
42. Regarding Paragraph 42, Defendant denies that Plaintiff has asserted a cause of action against Defendant for which he can recover attorney's fees. Defendant also denies that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief from Defendant.

B. AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

43. Defendant generally denies within the contemplation of Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 92 each and every, all and singular, the allegations of Plaintiff's claims and causes of action, and

respectfully requests the Court to require Plaintiff to prove his charges and allegations by a preponderance of the evidence as required by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas.

44. Defendant alleges that at the time and place and on the occasion in question, Plaintiff failed to exercise that degree of care that an ordinary prudent person in the exercise of ordinary care would have exercised in the same or similar circumstances, and such failure proximately caused or contributed to cause the occurrence made the basis of this suit. Defendant pleads comparative and contributory negligence pursuant to Section 33 of the TEXAS CIVIL PRACTICES & REMEDIES CODE.

45. Defendant pleads the proportionate responsibility provisions of Chapter 33 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, and request that the Court expressly direct the trier of fact to determine the percentage of responsibility of each Plaintiff, Defendant, Settling Person and Responsible Third Party.

46. Defendant says that the occurrence in question, as well as the damages complained of herein, were proximately caused or producingly caused, in whole or in part, by the actions, omissions, fault, negligence, responsibility or other conduct of other parties and/or responsible third parties over whom Defendant is not legally responsible under law and over whom Defendant had no right of control.

47. Defendant would show that Defendant breached no duty to Plaintiff. Defendant would show that the alleged risk of harm to Plaintiff was not within the scope of any duty of Defendant, nor was it foreseeable.

48. To the extent that the medical expenses and/or health care expenses exceed the amount actually paid on behalf of Plaintiff, Defendant asserts the statutory defense set forth in Texas

Civil Practice & Remedies Code § 41.0105. Recovery of medical and/or health care expenses is limited to the amount actually paid or incurred by or on behalf of Plaintiff.

49. Defendant pleads the defense set forth in Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code §18.091, requiring Plaintiff to prove his loss of earnings and/or loss of earning capacity in the form that represents his net loss after reduction for income tax payments or unpaid tax liability on said loss of earnings claim pursuant to any federal income tax law. Additionally, Defendant requests the Court to instruct the jury as to whether any recovery for compensatory damages sought by Plaintiff, if any, is subject to federal and state income taxes.

50. Pleading further, and with respect to the exemplary and/or punitive damage claims brought herein, Defendant affirmatively pleads the limitation on the recovery of exemplary damages prescribed and set forth in the TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE §§41.007 and 41.008.

51. Pleading further, and with respect to any claim for exemplary and/or punitive damages herein, Defendant specifically pleads that such claims are governed by the evidentiary standard of clear and convincing evidence as prescribed and set forth in the TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE §41.003.

52. Defendant respectfully request a trial by jury.

C. CONCLUSION AND REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant Z RESORTS MANAGEMENT, LLC respectfully requests this Court to dismiss with prejudice Plaintiff's claims and lawsuit on the merits; to award Defendant cost and disbursements as provided by law; and for all such other and further relief, both at law and in equity, to which Defendant may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

FEE, SMITH, SHARP & VITULLO, LLP



By: _____

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**ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS,
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LEE MAYS AND DEREK CRIDDLE**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned attorney certifies that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document has been forwarded to all counsel of record as listed below by e-filing, hand delivery, by certified mail, return receipt requested, and/or by facsimile transmission, on this the 30th day of July, 2018.

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